The approach of another General Election taxed their ingenuity. A Doctor's Mandate, which had served them well before, could scarcely be asked for again; in four years their doctoring might be presumed to be over, and a cure, if there was ever to be one, achieved. Nor, so brief is public gratitude, could they expect to attract support because they had secured savings-bank deposits when they were endangered. They were still National, certainly, with party differences all laid aside. Attempts had been made to remind the electorate of this by sending out loud-speaker vans equipped to display talking-pictures of Mr. Baldwin, Sir John Simon and MacDonald, as well as other pictorial representations of the National Government's achievements at home and abroad. The vans toured London and the provinces, stopping occasionally at street corners, where a small crowd, mostly juvenile, would collect round them. What interest they aroused was somewhat languid, their reception scarcely enthusiastic. The esteem in which the National Government was held appeared to have diminished; though it might readily be admitted that its leaders had in all sincerity sunk their political differences, doubts had come to be felt as to whether, in fact, they had any to sink. A pick-me-up was clearly required, and Mr. Baldwin soon devised a suitable one. A good stiff peace and soda, taken last thing before a General Election, got rid of that tired feeling, and generally toned up the Government's system.

The specific had been suggested to him by the result of the Peace Ballot, and by the success of the Labour candidate at a by-election in Fulham (a Conservative majority of

14,000 was transformed into a Labour majority of 5,000) fought on the issue of collective security. With these two object lessons before him, Mr. Baldwin came forward as the League's best friend, and promised that he would 'never stand for a policy of great armaments'. 'You want peace/ he said to the electorate; *you ^ave shown your anxiety that support of the League of Nations should be the Government's policy. . ,. I declare to you that we accept that policy. Trust me to put that policy into effect/ The electorate did want peace, and had been encouraged to believe